

**Town of Webster
Office of Select Board
945 Battle Street
Webster, NH 03303
Final Minutes – December 14, 2015
Approved December 21, 2017**

Present: Bruce Johnson, Roger Becker, Michael Borek, Wendy Pinkham, Leslie Palmer and Dave Collins

Chairman Johnson opened the budget work session at 6:30 PM.

Dave Collins met with the Select board to discuss viable options regarding the ambulance at the Fire Department. One option is to replace the current ambulance. It was discovered that it would cost about \$225,000 to \$250,000 to replace what the department currently has. However, the current ambulance is large, so the purchase of an F450 Box Ambulance is recommended instead at a cost of approximately \$165,000 to \$170,000. Because newer ambulances are designed more efficiently, everything carried on the current ambulance would fit on the new one and still have more storage available. Also, it could be used at fire scenes. The 4WD option is recommended which would bring the price up to the higher end of the estimate but would allow for better response. Because the current stretcher would not be compatible with the proposed ambulance, a new stretcher would need to be purchased at an approximate cost of \$5,500 to \$7,000. Selectman Becker asked if a power stretcher was being considered. Mr. Collins replied that a power stretcher would cost more money, \$15,000 to \$20,000 and require more maintenance, but could be considered.

In looking at the repair of the current ambulance, Mr. Collins explained that the ambulance is 1996 model with 18,200 miles. Although the mileage is low, it's the number of running hours that the vehicle has in measuring wear and tear. There are intermittent electrical issues and the O2 system has a slow leak that should be fixed. There are many repairs that need to be completed for the vehicle to pass inspection including airbags and breaks. Selectman Borek asked Mr. Collins to look into the cost of repairing the ambulance so that it will last for another 5 years (the ambulance is 20 years old) and recommended someone to look at the electrical issues. Mr. Collins will provide a list of repairs and associated costs for consideration, cautioning that the electrical issues could be very expensive depending upon what is found.

Selectman Johnson asked if the purchase of a vehicle that doesn't transport was being considered. Mr. Collins responded that he doesn't recommend that as a viable option and cited future higher costs associated with Hopkinton and Penacook Rescue. Also, Webster would lose the ability to transport in the future. He noted that 90 to 95% of calls from the assisted living facility in Town are transport calls.

The Select Board thanked Mr. Collins for his report; he will provide the cost of options discussed to Administrator Pinkham by the end of the year for consideration.

The Select Board then continued the review of the Town's operating budget. Budget work will continue with a discussion of upcoming road projects at the next regularly scheduled Select Board meeting.

8:15 PM, Selectman Becker made a motion to adjourn the budget work session; seconded by Selectman Borek and approved.

Respectfully Submitted, Leslie M. Palmer